

November Progress Report for AEQUOR

Attachment to EGMA-8983

1. Headquarters Action Required:

(A.) Utilization of AECAMBISTA 2's suggestions on W/T texts (ref. EGMA-8556).

B. Request Headquarters comment on paragraph 3b below.

[] C. Request Headquarters notify DRC by cable if it thinks subject of 885 should be brought to Germany for debriefing.

(D) Request Headquarters consideration of need for occasional personal coordination between [] and Munich on matters dealing with AECAMBISTA 1.

E. Request Headquarters guidance on action to be taken, if any, re activities reported in EGMA-8875.

2. Synopsis of Developments: The question of the exclusion of AECAMPOSANTO 3 from the team being recruited was resolved with the receipt of the results of the conference between AECAMBISTA 4 and Headquarters. AECAMBISTA 2 was asked to try to recruit an additional candidate for the team. Arrangements made for transfer of AECAMPOSANTO 10 and 11 to Munich as soon as other points were also clarified. Discussions were held with AECAMBISTA 2 on possible merger of the two subsidized publications. Autobiographic and debriefing data was received on Subject of [] 885. All recent traffic with AEQUOR II team was reviewed and discussed and AECAMBISTA 2 is endeavouring to obtain information on several persons mentioned in the texts. Several reports of possible CE or political interest were received from AECAMBISTA 5. KUGOWN material was given to AECAMBISTA 2 and 5 and the prospect of continued receipt of such material was hailed as a very positive development. A brief discussion was held with AECAMBISTA 2 on possibility of having one man in England, France and Belgium to do spotting and organizational work on a limited budget. Such a program is already functioning fairly well in Belgium, but a great deal of work needs to be done in the other two countries.

3. Account of Developments:

General:

A. The status of recruitment for the AEQUOR III team is adequately covered in cable and pouch correspondence (see EGMW-157, SMUNI-5900, DIR-26988, 27975). We will be able to complete the assessment of AECAMPOSANTO 11 if Headquarters agrees that his assessment should be continued on the basis of potential indicated in the preliminary assessment. Arrangements were made with AECAMBISTA 2 to write to AECAMPOSANTO 10 and tell him to prepare himself for a trip to Germany on two weeks notice. This will enable AECAMPOSANTO 10 to make an application for visa and to arrange his personal affairs. With regard to AECAMPOSANTO 11 it is essential that he be brought to Munich soon since the cover devised for him is that of attending university either in Heidelberg or Karlsruhe. The university term has already begun and he must leave Belgium soon or the interest of his friends there will be unduly aroused.

B. The question of future activities in the project was discussed with AECAMBISTA 2. Both agent and case officer agreed that the scale of operations would have to be changed in view of the failure to obtain either the Cadre or Area Representative program. AECAMBISTA 2 outlined briefly the program

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that he was carrying out in Belgium to maintain the interest in so far as possible of young Belorussians in the anti-Communist fight and in Belorussian nationalism. AECAMBISTA 2 has available several students who together with him take periodic trips (usually every weekend) to some area where there is a Belorussian group. They call meetings, discuss problems of current and international interest, which have appeared in the Belorussian publications and in local newspapers, and have a social get-together. Occasionally they play recordings of an interview with a noted Belorussian such as AECAMBISTA 4 or one of the academic types. When asked if such a program could be conducted in France and England, AECAMBISTA 2 said that it was possible but it would require a full-time man in each area and a considerable amount of traveling and operational support. AECAMBISTA 2 was asked to prepare a program which would involve the use of only one man in each country who could serve a dual function of spotter and organizer (the latter essential from a cover standpoint). Upon receipt of specific suggestions from AECAMBISTA 2 a separate dispatch will be sent to Headquarters outlining the proposition in detail. Any guidance which Headquarters can give us with regard to plans within the scope of the AEQUOR Project would be appreciated. With the shift of emphasis to the REDSKIN type activity it is not known here just what the nature of our relationship with AECAMBISTA 1 should be in the future.

C. Although [] 885 asked if DRC wanted to accept for debriefing the Subject of that cable, we have had no indication officially of DRC's response to that request. Our information on the alleged defector comes through AECAMBISTA 1 channels. During November AECAMBISTA 2 brought an autobiography and a preliminary debriefing of this defector to Munich. These reports were turned over to IB for perusal and it is expected that a brief will be prepared for AECAMBISTA 2 to serve as a guide to further questioning. AECAMBISTA 2 has naturally taken a considerable interest in the man because of the unusual story of his defection and the fact that he came directly to the AECAMBISTA 1 student house. So far AECAMBISTA 2 has maintained a healthy skepticism regarding this man's bona fides.

D. The KUGOWN material received from Headquarters was turned over to AECAMBISTA 2 and 5. Both agents were delighted with the prospect of receiving such concrete material for guidance in preparing the AECAMBISTA 1 publications. The introduction of such guidance, offered as suggestion material only, undoubtedly has been a shot in the arm to AECAMBISTA 1-KUBARK relations. By this act AECAMBISTA 1 feels that we still regard its group as having a potential in the common struggle against Bolshevism. The suggestion offered by Headquarters in EGQW-11068 that the two publications subsidized by us be merged into one was discussed with AECAMBISTA 2. The latter in turn discussed it with the editor of the newspaper. Both the editor and AECAMBISTA 2 consider it infeasible to make such a merger. They argue that the cost will be approximately the same. This point seems to be valid since the majority of the cost of the satirical publication comes from the reproduction of cartoons. Both men also consider the newspaper to be conservative comparable to the NEW YORK TIMES and feel that putting items in it previously published exclusively in the satirical paper would be like putting comics in the TIMES. The points brought up in EGQW-11068 do not appear valid as reasoning for such a merger. There are several facts in the dispatch which are completely inaccurate. The case officer has requested AECAMBISTA 2 to prepare a pro and con statement on the suggested merger. As soon as this is received a separate dispatch covering the whole question will be submitted to Headquarters.

AECAMBISTA 2:

A. Number of meetings held -- three.

B. Cover of agent as medical assistant still fulfills a definite operational purpose. Through this means AECAMBISTA 2 remains free to go on recruitment trips, maintain contact with case officer, and conduct organizational matters amongst the young of AECAMBISTA 1 in Belgium.

C. During the last month one matter of possible security significance has arisen. As you know AECAMBISTA 2 funds are transmitted to him [] The sum of 15,000 Belgian Francs was mailed to AECAMBISTA 2 on the 16th of October but AECAMBISTA 2 failed to receive it. The determination as to what happened to the money is being undertaken [] although it appears that it is probably only a case of theft and has no basic security implications.

D. AECAMBISTA 2 has been meeting approximately once per month with [] [] with regard to REDSKIN and REDCAP matters. Coordination between [] and Munich on the utilization of AECAMBISTA 2 and other AECAMBISTA 1 members is extremely important since AECAMBISTA 2 is shrewd enough to capitalize on any apparent lack of such coordination.

E. During recent conversation with AECAMBISTA 2 a discussion took place regarding the salary of 15,000 Belgian Francs paid to him. This sum was originally established to permit AECAMBISTA 2 complete freedom of movement and allow him to take the position as a free-medical assistant. However, it was contemplated that his activities would be more extensive than they have been during the last six months. In line with this AECAMBISTA 2 was told that unless an operational plan was devised which utilized his services more extensively the sum paid to him would have to be lowered. However, the question of AECAMBISTA 2's utilization [] in REDSKIN and REDCAP matters may also affect this. AECAMBISTA 2 thinks only in terms of the U.S. Government and feels that as long as he is rendering service to it that he "earns" his pay. He is undoubtedly right except that allotment-wise the entire cost of his support should not be born by AEQUOR if he is spending a reasonable amount of time engaging in REDSKIN activities.

AECAMBISTA 5:

1. During month of November had contact with AECAMBISTA 5 in average of once per week.

2. AECAMBISTA 5 wrote two reports on meetings which took place between himself, AECAMBISTA 2 and a former Ukrainian Colonel who is possibly working for German Intelligence. The reports were transmitted in EGMA-8875.

3. AECAMBISTA 5 also reported that a second meeting took place between CANTINA and the editor of the newspaper on 12 November. CANTINA had been warned by his case officer to refrain from contacts with the Belorussians but apparently did not heed this warning and had a second meeting. Since CANTINA made some strong claims of connection with American Intelligence the matter was turned over to the Assessment Section to determine what action was necessary.

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4. In addition to above AECAMBISTA 5 continued in his capacity as cut-out for messages to and from AECAMBISTA 2 and worked on the November issue of the satirical publication.

Administrative:

Allotment notifications for AEQUOR/KUFIRE and KUGOWN were received. The first two quarter allotment for KUGOWN is adequate but the KUFIRE sum is insufficient to cover current operational expenses. A cable will be sent indicating our recommendations for revision of allotments.

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